Payment of claims under GIC

2276. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 455 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether General Insurance Corporation of India have in turn paid the claims to the farmers,

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) what are the reasons for withholding the payments; and

(d) whether Government of Gujarat had released their one-third share and if not what is the pending amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have made the payments of claims to the credit disbursing agencies, wherever the State Governments have released their one-third share in respect of lawful indemnity claims of crop insurance payable for 1985-86 and 1986-87.

(b) According to the information received from GIC, the total indemnity claims and claims paid/unpaid so far during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as follows—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total claims	Claims paid by the GIC	Claims unpaid
1985-86	87.00	85.98	1.02
1986-87	174.70	155.62	19.08
1987-88	300.00*	8 93	291.07

*Tentative.

(c) The reasons for withholding of the payments of indemnity claims cleared by the Government are inability of the State Governments to release their one-third share, further clarifications sought by the GIC, scrutiny of the claims, etc.

(d) The Government of Gujarat have released their one-third share in respect of all claims that have been paid by the GIC so far, except, one-third share for disputed claims worth Rs. 1.22 crore for kharif 1986 season for three talukas of Rajkot District. The indemnity claims of Gujarat for Kharif 1987 season have not been cleared so far by the Government.

Import of foodgrains

2277. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reconsidered its decision to import wheat and other foodgrains in view of good beginning of monsoon throughout the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the estimated production in current kharif season for (i) food grains, (ii) edible oilseeds, (iii) cotton, (iv) sugarcane, (v) coffee, (vi) tea and other cash crops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Imports are currently being made to replenish the buffer stocks. It is too early to say about estimates of production of foodgrains in the coming season as the Kharif season has just commenced.

Pepsi Cola

2278. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 444 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the recommendations of PAB on collaboration of Pepsi Cola; and

(b) what are the findings of PAB for and against the collaboration of Pepsi Cola?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) It is not the policy of the Government to disclose details of the recommendations/findings of Committee like project Approval Board.

Setting up of Television Transmitter at Fazilka

2279. SHRI L. NARSINGH NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 283 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the present position regarding setting up of a High Power Television Transmitter at Fazilka, the details regarding population and the areas likely to be covered by this transmitter, the reasons for delay in selection of site therefor; by when the work on this project is likely to commence and to what extent it would be helpful to cope with the Pakistani Television propaganda;

(b) whether Government propose to explore the possibilities of utilising the UHF communications network, functioning at Fazilka, for Television transmission or to make some other short term arrangement therefor and allocate enough resources thereafter so as to set up the Television transmitter on a priority basis; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The scheme for the establishment of a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter at Fazilka in Punjab was added to the VII Plan of Doordarshan only a few months back. A survey of the area has also been carried out and a possible site tentatively identified. The State Government has been approached for allocation of this site to Doordarshan. Commencement of civil works would be possible after the scheme is formally approved by the Government and the site is handed over to Doordarshan. On Commissioning of the proposed high power TV transmitter at Fazilka, TV service in the area along the border would be considerably strengthened and a population of about 21 lakhs spread over an area of about 11,000 sq. Kms. is expected to be covered by TV service.

(b) and (c) TV transmission requires special equipment and tower structure and the existing communications system available in the area cannot be utilised for the purpose. While the lead-time required in setting up the TV project of the kind envisaged for Fazilka is at least three years after commencement of works at site, it has been the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to complete the projects assigned to it as early as early as possible.